

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of the Regular monthly Caroga Town Board meeting held Tuesday November 10, 2009 at the municipal building located at 1840 State Highway #10 at 7:00 pm with the following persons in attendance by Roll Call:

Supervisor Selmsler - Here
Councilman Ralph Palcovic - Here
Councilman Robert Sprung - Here
Council Member Valerie Scribner - Here
Councilman Robert Sullivan - Here

Other town officials in attendance were Stephen Jennings – Golf Pro-Greenskeeper-Manager, and Assessor Katherine Hillock. There were 6 others in attendance.

Supervisor Selmsler called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The flag salute was conducted.

The public hearing on 2010 Budget was opened at 7:01 pm. He noted the public hearing would be open for twenty minutes if there were any questions or concerns they should be addressed now. Mr. Stump stated, “You can’t do nothing with nothing.” There were no further comments or questions. The board then proceeded to move through the agenda.

Department Reports:

Highway – It was noted that Mr. Insogna was re-elected.

Code Enforcement & Sanitation – A monthly report was given to the board members. From October 14 to November 10 there were 16 building permits issued and one application to the Zoning Board of Appeals. It was noted that Mr. Heberer would be out of the office for a few days and returning early next week.

Dog Control – Mr. Dutcher told the clerk that during the past month he has received 3 calls, issued one ticket and had one hearing which resulted in a \$50.00 fine. He noted this was the third ticket to the same person – the local law penalties were not issued.

Golf Course – Mr. Jennings reported the revenues to date are \$209,357.00. He suggested having the Monday discount coupon again during the month of May and again at the end of the year. The board asked for the number of coupons turned in. The board was in favor of running the coupon program again next year. Mr. Jennings contacted a couple of golf courses on the greens fee structure. We are one of the cheaper ones. He suggested, with the economy the way it is, standing pat on our prices. He noted that 34% of the days were rainy. There were a few more members this year. Keeping the rates the same may induce people to stay here, and maybe bring in a few more members. He reported on the work on the fourth green – the top has been scalped off and they have run into a couple of huge boulders. He wants to add 2 ½ feet of dirt to cover the rock, as the bulldozer did not even move them. The board suggested looking at blasting the rock. The highway department may have the name of someone to contact. He noted that the highway department had

material for the base – sand and small stone. He would like to get the rock out of there or reduce it if the cost is reasonable. Once the base settles over the winter then the final grading will be done in the spring and the sod can be put down. If sod is put down you can play on it within a month, if it is seeded it will take a year. The course will be closed within the next week to ten days. The snowmobilers did begin work to cut a trail behind the third tee.

RESOLUTION to set the Nick Stoner Golf Course rates for 2010 #2009-076

Offered by Councilman Sprung

Seconded by Council Member Scribner

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday November 10, 2009 this month due to the Veterans Day Holiday, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jennings did some research of other course rates, and

WHEREAS, Steve Jennings Golf Pro, Greenskeeper, Manager did discuss the rates and the economy with the board members, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the rates at the Nick Stoner Municipal Golf Course in Caroga Lake NY shall not change for the 2010 season and are set as follows:

The incentive rate – prior to May 1st 2010

Individual Membership - \$450.00

Couple membership \$825.00

Starting May 2, 2010

Individual Membership \$500.00

Couple Membership \$875.00

Juniors – age 20 and under \$125.00

Weekly Play \$120.00

Monthly Play \$240.00

Weekend 18 Holes (Saturday, Sunday & Holidays) \$ 22.00

Weekday 18 holes \$ 20.00

9 Hole Ticket \$ 12.00

9 Hole Ticket after 4:30 pm \$ 10.00

Lockers \$ 25.00

Unanimously carried

The clerk suggested putting the information about the coupon in the town directory.

BTI – no report

Weeds - Mr. DeWeese noted the town received the second payment on the Weed Harvesting Grant. A total of \$16,000.00 has been received. Everything has been put away for the year. He took a trip around East Caroga in his kayak and found that the milfoil is still growing.

Youth - no report

Clerk/Registrar – The monthly revenue report was given to the board. The supervisor has issued a receipt for the payment he received. The Clerk noted to the board that there was a Tax Collection User Group meeting sponsored by my software vendor on December 2 in Clifton Park she would like to attend.

Resolution to pay mileage for Tax Collector to attend training #2009-077

Offered by Councilman Sullivan

Seconded by Councilman Sprung

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday November 10, 2009 this month due to the Veterans Day Holiday, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector – Linda Gilbert discussed with the board an upcoming training sponsored by Business Automation Services for an update of the software used in her office for tax collection to be held on December 2, 2009 in Clifton Park NY, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the town board does hereby move to pay for mileage for the tax collector to attend the above-mentioned training.

Unanimously carried

The clerk discussed with the board a New York State Town Clerks Association meeting she will be attending in Liverpool NY on December 6 – 7. There is a charge of \$25.00 for the lunch on Monday.

Resolution to pay for luncheon #2009-078

Offered by Councilman Sprung

Seconded by Councilman Palcovic

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday November 10, 2009 this month due to the Veterans Day Holiday, and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk – Linda Gilbert discussed with the board an upcoming meeting she will be attending as Third Vice President of the New York State Town Clerks Association on December 7, 2009, and

WHEREAS there is a charge of \$25.00 for the luncheon, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga town Board does hereby move to pay \$25.00 for the luncheon from account A1410.4.

Unanimously carried

Assessor's Report – Mrs. Hillock reported that one of the computers crashed in the office. The computer is from 2003 and was seven years old. She asked the boards approval to spend funds for a new computer. Councilman Palcovic would like more than one quote. Mrs. Hillier told the assessor that a transfer needed to be made for the purchase. Canada Lake Computer gave a quote of \$1481.00.

RESOLUTION to purchase a replacement computer for Assessor #2009- 079

Offered by Councilman Palcovic

Seconded by Council Member Scribner

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday November 10, 2009 this month due to the Veterans Day Holiday, and

WHEREAS, the Assessor Katherine Hillock discussed with the board the need for a new computer in her office as the seven year old computer had crashed, and

WHEREAS, a quote of \$1481.00 was received from Canada Lake Computer, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that another comparable quote shall be obtained prior to the purchase of a new computer and the purchase may be made, not to exceed \$1500.00 pending the best price quote.

Unanimously Carried

The Assessor congratulated Mr. Russitano on winning the seat on the Town Board. She noted however, that he would have to vacate his seat on the Board of Assessment Review (BAR). It was also noted that the term of Mark Ford also expires this year. The Supervisor did try to contact Mr. Ford but he was not home to receive the call. His wife did however think he would serve for another term. The Supervisor will confirm with Mr. Ford in the morning. The Assessor suggested placing an ad in the newspaper. Councilman Palcovic noted that three of the seated councilman formerly served on the BAR.

RESOLUTION to Transfer Funds #2009-080

Offered by Council Member Scribner

Seconded by Councilman Sprung

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday November 10, 2009 this month due to the Veterans Day Holiday, and

WHEREAS, the Assessor Katherine Hillock discussed with the board and the Budget Director the need for a new computer, and

WHEREAS, the Assessor stated she would forward the second quote to the board members prior to purchasing the new equipment, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following necessary transfer shall be made per Lita Hillier – Budget director:

To: A1355.2 – Assessor E.Q.	\$1,500.00	
From: A1355.13 – Assessor Clerk P.S.		\$1,500.00

Unanimously Carried

Supervisor’s Report

- 1) A copy of a legal reply from Attorney Sal Ferlazzo RE: Herms Court Decision was given to the board members. Hopefully this will be the end of it, but we are not sure. We have not received information on payment or seen movement on the demolition on the building.
- 2) There was a drainage situation that was rectified with the owner and the highway Superintendent with help from Councilman Palcovic.
- 3) Supervisor Selmser met with the Quenelles regarding a ZBA issue with a town road right of way. He gave them information on the regulations. A garage would have come within a foot of the road and was voted down.
- 4) Review of Financial reports & status – “the revenues in the general area are up. Expenses also were up. We pretty much ended up being equal. We continue to be in a positive atmosphere on the cash flow. The highway area also we’ve got revenue increases of \$119,000.00 expenses decreasing.... actually expenses increased but the offset between the added revenue and the expenses were approximately \$106,000.00 to the good.”
- 5) A correspondence was received from NYSTCA recognizing the Town Clerk – Linda Gilbert in her involvement in the association. She has been elected to serve as the Third Vice President of the Association.
- 6) Last Thursday the supervisor met with a representative of Grain Communication Group out of Florida. They have been involved with homeland security and have expressed an interest in putting up cell towers. Presently they do not have any in New York State, they do in other states. The information from AT & T was shared with him. Another company Independent Cell Towers has also contacted the town.
- 7) At the County Level a resolution was passed upping the tipping fees. The county recommends offsetting the increase through transfer station permit fees. We are a step ahead.
- 8) information was received on the increase of Medicare rates for next year. It will cost will be \$258.90 which include prescription drug premium.
- 9) there will be an Adirondack Assoc. of Towns & Villages meeting on December 6 – 7. Supervisor Selmser may go to that based on what he finds is on the agenda.
- 10) there is a new Fulmont Action Agency which has a vehicle that will come out to communities to provide services anywhere from job information to providing food. The Supervisor will see if the vehicle could come to the Town of Caroga once a month.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds – Supervisor Selmser reported that the concrete work has been done the forms are off. They will start construction of the walls later this week. The contract states that 33% of the total payment will be made when the concrete work is completed. The budget director will disburse payment tomorrow.

The other status of the building and the internal components – we’ve received one quote from Adirondack Mechanical. It came in a lot higher than anyone anticipated. The electrical work up also is quoted a lot higher to hook up the present building in anticipation of future construction. With that information Supervisor Selmser stated it is his “recommendation that we hold off and kind of mothball the project vs. spending costs to hookup the present building with potential knowledge that we would utilize the building in the future. If there was a chance that it was going to be torn down and replaced by a smaller structure we wouldn’t need the... as much heat or as high amount of electric be imputed into a smaller structure.” Supposedly this is the only firm that will do this type of work according to what Mr. Heberer believes, he has contacted other people. “He is not confident working with anybody else.”

Council Member Scribner questioned moving forward with the building of the utility shed. Supervisor Selmser thought we needed to progress forward and look at some other options, perhaps go smaller and incorporate some photocells, or geothermal which could supplement the heating. The board noted we were obligated to finish the building. Supervisor Selmser stated that the board needs to do more research in another direction or put everything else together for a smaller building to be built next to the utility building. Councilman Palcovic wanted to look at other avenues for financing. He wondered were the stimulus money promised, by President Obama, went for shovel ready projects. The old section of the school needs to go. There were incorrect assumptions made as to what we actually needed to continue to operate this building. With a smaller building a smaller service would be needed, and less zones to heat the structure.

Supervisor Selmser will make some phone calls to see if there are any other companies are interested in giving estimates on the project.

At 7:40 pm the public hearing on the budget was closed. Supervisor Selmser asked for a motion to make the preliminary budget a permanent budget for 2010.

RESOLUTION to Adopt the Town of Caroga 2009 Budget #2009-081

Offered by Councilman Sprung

Seconded by Councilman Palcovic

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday November 10, 2009 this month due to the Veterans Day Holiday, and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Selmser and Budget Director Lita Hillier have worked countless hours on preparing the 2010 Town of Caroga Budget, and

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town board has studied, reviewed, discussed and made numerous changes to the 2010 Town of Caroga budget – in its preliminary and tentative phases, and

WHEREAS, notification was published in the Leader Herald Newspaper for the public hearing on the 2010 Budget on October 28, 2009 and the public hearing was held on the Town of Caroga 2010 Budget on Tuesday November 10, 2009 at 7:00 pm, with just one comment from the public, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to adopt the Town of Caroga 2010 Budget.

Adopted by the following Roll Call Vote:
Councilman Sullivan – yes
Council Member Scribner – yes
Councilman Sprung – yes
Councilman Palcovic – yes
Supervisor Selmsler - yes

Park Creation - Council Member Scribner remarked that she was working on the bills for the final total of what has been spent this year. She sent out eleven thank you notes for the time donated by volunteers. Two of the Councilman volunteered to paint next year if needed.

Golf Course – already covered
Cell Service – already covered

Old Business:

Councilman Sprung asked what has happened with the Falvo – septic situation. Supervisor Selmsler responded that a letter was sent to his attorney with information on what was to be done next. Mr. Falvo was in attendance this evening and had not seen the letter sent to his attorney. He was told Mr. Heberer was going to contact him but that has not happened yet. Any decision the town makes has to follow public health law.

Fulton county Planning agreement to waive area variance applications referral to county – this topic was postponed until the next meeting. Supervisor Selmsler is still trying to get an interpretation on this.

Personnel Policy – draft by Councilman Palcovic – Supervisor Selmsler has compiled information on this. He thinks a work session needs to be set to interpret and digest the information. He wants to see what other towns have and what information the Assoc. of Towns has.

A work session was set for Wednesday December 2, 2009 at 6:30 pm.

New Business:

- 1) Supervisor Selmsler will confirm with Mr. Ford tomorrow. An ad will be placed for the open position on the Board of Assessment Review
- 2) Thanksgiving Holiday – Town Hall closed 11-26, 27, and 28
- 3) Janice Corr who currently serves as an alternate member to ZBA has submitted a letter of interest in the vacant alternate seat on the Planning Board. The board discussed bringing her in for an interview at a future meeting date. Mr. Welker noted that she is a valuable member of the ZBA.
- 4) EAP – sent a notice that we have not utilized their services yet this year. They are available to meet and discuss specific workplace issues.
- 5) Set end of year meeting Tuesday Dec. 29th Reorganizational meeting January

A **motion** was made by Councilman Sprung and seconded by Councilman Sullivan to set the Year End meeting for Tuesday December 29th, 2009 at 7:00 pm and the Reorganization meeting is set for January 5th. **Unanimously Carried**

6) Partial payment will be made to Mr. Hryniak who is building the utility shed.

RESOLUTION to pay Hryniak Construction

#2009-082

Offered by Councilman Palcovic

Seconded by Councilman Sullivan

WHEREAS, the Caroga Town Board held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday November 10, 2009 this month due to the Veterans Day Holiday, and

WHEREAS, the town went out to bid on a utility shed to be built behind the old section of the Wheelerville School located at 1840 State Highway 10 in proximity to the municipal offices, and

WHEREAS, phase one of the project - the concrete work has been completed per the bid specifications which have been overseen by the Code Enforcement Officer Mr. Heberer, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to pay 30% of the total cost of the project - \$11,628.60 to Hryniak Construction of Gloversville NY 12078 for the work completed to date on the utility shed.

Unanimously carried

7) Council Member Scribner received renewal information on the Adopt –A- Highway which will expire on December 31, 2009. The board participates in the program and feels this is a worthwhile program and would like to renew the contract until December 31, 2011.

Correspondence:

1) 11-20 from Fred Stortecky re: Garlock Road and runoff - Matter was resolved immediately.

2) Fulton County Resolution #426 contract with Frontier for Long Distance cc: to Lita. Supervisor Selmsler is reviewing the towns' long distance bills. He will see if there are ways to reduce the cost.

Councilman Sprung made a motion to pay the bills as presented for audit with the one addition to the abstract of the Carver Sand & Gravel bill in the amount of \$832.50 for #4 gravel for the utility shed; and to accept the minutes of the Oct. 7 work session and Oct. meeting. Council Member Scribner seconded the motion. **Unanimously Carried**

Hearing no other business to come before the board at this time Councilman Sprung made a motion to adjourn at 7:55pm, Councilman Sullivan seconded the motion. Unanimously Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Gilbert – RMC
Town Clerk